

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

### **Listing of claims:**

Claims 1 - 14 (Cancelled).

Claim 15 (Previously presented): Apparatus for improving the skill of a sports person which comprises two upwardly inclined side by side diverging guideways, a substantially inelastic reciprocating line connected to and freely movable along said guideways, whose length is equal to or greater than a minimum spacing of the guideways and less than a maximum spacing of the guideways and a ball connected to and generally coaxial with said reciprocating line.

Claim 16 (Previously presented): Apparatus as claimed in Claim 16, wherein a first end of each of the two guideways is secured or securable at ground level by an anchorage.

Claim 17 (Original): Apparatus as claimed in Claim 16, wherein the anchorage comprises a stake or ground pin.

Claim 18 (Previously presented): Apparatus as claimed in Claim 17, wherein a second end of each of the two guideways is attached to a stable support.

Claim 19 (Original): Apparatus as claimed in Claim 15, wherein means are provided for varying the length of the guideways and/or their angle of inclination above ground level.

Claim 20 (Original): Apparatus as claimed in Claim 15, wherein the reciprocating line is connected or connectable to the guideways through a slide.

Claim 21 (Original): Apparatus as claimed in Claim 20, wherein the slide comprises a hinged clip, ring, rope slide or adjustable loop.

Claim 22 (Previously presented): Apparatus as claimed in Claim 15, wherein at least one guideway and the reciprocating line are made of a low friction material.

Claim 23 (Original): Apparatus as claimed in Claim 22, wherein the material comprises a plastic-covered cord or wire.

Claim 24 (Previously presented): Apparatus as claimed in Claim 15, wherein at least one guideway is made of a substantially rigid material.

Claim 25 (Cancelled).

Claim 26 (Previously presented): Apparatus as claimed in Claim 15, further comprising tensioning means for varying the tension of the at least one guideway.

Claim 27 (Original): Apparatus as claimed in Claim 16, wherein the tensioning means comprises a reeling mechanism.

Claim 28 (Previously presented): Apparatus as claimed in Claim 15, further comprising a backboard or target at which the ball may be aimed, wherein the backboard or target is positioned in the path of a trajectory of the ball.

Claim 29 (Previously presented): Apparatus as claimed in Claim 28, wherein the backboard or target is oriented substantially perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the guideways and located between the diverging guideways at a point along the guideways between the first ends of each of the two guideways where they are secured or securable at ground level by an anchorage and the second ends of each of the two guideways where they are attached to a stable support.